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growing body of clinical and scientific evidence from respected scientists, university professors, and physicians now clearly indicates that no one really dies. In addition, many people report empirical data—based on firsthand experience—that adds to the evidence for this conclusion.

Gary E. Schwartz, PhD, is the director of the University of Arizona's Laboratory for Advances in Consciousness and Health. A former assistant professor at Harvard and tenured professor at Yale, he stated in the book we coauthored, *Greater Reality Living*:

"Speaking as a scientist, I am now 99.9 per cent certain that life continues after bodily death."

I am equally sure, based upon my personal and

professional experiences and knowledge of the collective evidence.

Many experts on consciousness and afterlife topics agree that there is very strong evidence that your consciousness/energy/spirit survives bodily death. Put another way, life is never-ending despite outward appearances to the contrary.

The evidence can be grouped into three categories indicating who is doing the analysis: research scientists, clinicians, or persons having the firsthand experience.

1. Evidence from Research Scientists

Evidence collected by a scientist requires a laboratory or research setting with double-blinded, experimentally

controlled and replicated studies. Further, the findings must be statistically significant, peer-reviewed and published in reputable journals. Topics in this category include studies of authentic mediums, spirit communication technology, and other scientific evidence for consciousness.



2. Evidence from Clinicians

Evidence from a medical or psychological clinician requires systematic collection and analysis of data in a professional office, hospital or field setting. Categories include near-death experiences, past-life memories, perinatal research, life between lives studies, terminal lucidity and deathbed visions.

3. Evidence from Persons Having Firsthand Experiences

Evidence in this category is perceived and analysed by the person having the direct experience. Categories include after-death communications and other types of firsthand experiences.

This article cannot share the great amount of evidence, but I will discuss some of the scientific data. All of the varied evidence is presented in *Greater Reality Living* and my book *Soul Proof*.

Studies of Authentic Mediums by Dr Schwartz

As described in his book *The Afterlife Experiments*, Dr Schwartz conducted numerous studies to investigate the validity of mediums. In one study, he investigated five mediums and their abilities to accurately communicate with people who have passed on.

Using strict laboratory procedures, the mediums could not see or even hear the subjects—the people who hoped to receive messages from their "departed" loved ones. Furthermore, the mediums had no way of knowing anything about the subjects: not their names, gender, age bracket, background, city of residence or any other details.

After reviewing his experimental research on mediums, he concluded that the information consistently retrieved can best be explained as coming from living beings. Information was obtained before the medium ever spoke with the subjects. At times, the subject disagreed with some of the information that may ultimately turn out to be correct. Mediums were sometimes corrected by the "deceased". The data appeared to be as valid, convincing and living as the mediums, subjects, sceptics and scientists themselves. That's what the experimental data unmistakably showed.

Magicians, other scientists and professional documentarians with video cameras assisted to spot any cheating. No one who observed his laboratory's work and data—especially his latest multi-blinded experiments—has been able to point out any critical flaws in the scientific methodology.

No rational alternative explanations have been found for the findings. Statistical analyses show that the chances the totality of the results could have occurred randomly are at least one in one trillion. Finding a probability of chance in the 1 out of 100 or 1,000 range is the usual requirement for publishing research in respected journals. The data from the medium research is thus one billion times the requirement for acceptance of data validity in traditional scientific journals.

He concluded:

"Scientists and nonscientists alike are experiencing a test of faith: in this case, whether we can believe in the scientific method itself. Because if we are to put our faith in the scientific method, and trust what the data reveal, we are led to the hypothesis that the universe is more wondrous than imagined in our wildest flights of fancy. The totality of the findings is surprisingly consistent with the concept of life after death and what we call the 'living soul hypothesis'."

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Multiple double-blinded laboratory mediumship experiments have been published over the past 20 years from research at the University of Arizona, University of Virginia, University of Glasgow in Scotland, Institute of Noetic Sciences, and Windbridge Institute. In addition, imaging studies of mediums' brains suggesting that mediumship is more than imagination have been published by Temple University, the University of Pennsylvania, and the Institute of Noetic Sciences.

To summarise, double-blinded and triple-blinded experiments from 1997 to 2017 with genuine research

mediums have indicated that accurate information can be obtained from "spirits". In addition, specific hypothesised spirit collaborators on "the other side"—including famous scientists, inventors, business leaders and entertainers—appear to be actively collaborating with researchers. These experiments and findings have been reported in four of Dr Schwartz's books: The Afterlife Experiments (2002), The Truth about Medium (2005), The Sacred Promise (2011), and An Atheist in Heaven (2016).

Spirit Communication Technology at the University of Arizona

Technologies are currently being tested to demonstrate that the theories listed above are real. To date, many proof-of-concept technologies have been evaluated. States Dr Schwartz, "We hold the firm conviction that one day soon the technologies that result from these discoveries will allow us to communicate with what is now considered to be 'the spirit realm'." Devices derived from these technologies will likely be available for us to continue our relationships with loved ones who have passed on, but definitely not passed away.

The Laboratory for Advances in Consciousness and Health at the University of Arizona is progressing toward a working prototype of what is called the SoulPhone™.

Researchers there have demonstrated that detection of those who have physically died is possible in optimally controlled environments with ultrasensitive technological instruments.

Electromagnetic fields, light, sounds and images of hypothesised collaborating spirits have been captured in proof-of-concept studies. The challenge is to amplify their signals while minimising background noise and other interfering signals.

In light of the compelling evidence and rationale for such technologies, the question is no longer, "Is spirit communication possible?" The question is now, "What will it take to engineer a technology to make spirit communication extremely reliable, practical and affordable?"

Proof-of-concept research provides experimental evidence demonstrating the feasibility of designing practical spirit communication technologies. Important milestones thus far include:

- 1. A collection of fundamental information from hypothesised collaborating spirits (HCSs). These luminaries—scientists, inventors and others who have transitioned from Earth—want to help those on Earth. Thus far, contact with them has been achieved via key research mediums. The data collected from 2009 to the present reveals the physics of the "deceased" and the requirements of technology for reliably detecting them.
- 2. Scientific publication of three proof-of-concept experiments in the peer-reviewed journal *Explore* (2010). The data documented that the "energy of spirit" could

be reliably detected using state-of-the-art, researchgrade equipment measuring single photons of light in a pitch-black light proof chamber. Evidence of increased light was detected when hypothesised collaborating spirits were asked to enter the chamber. No consistent changes in light were detected during the control trials of the experiment when they were not asked to appear.

3. Follow-up findings from two proof-of-concept experiments were published in *Explore* (2011). This research documented that the energy of those who have passed on could be reliably detected using a fully automated computer low light CCD camera system. Again, patterns of light were detected in a light-proof chamber when the computer signalled the timing for hypothesised collaborating spirits to enter the chamber.

These experiments occurred in the middle of the night when no human experimenters were present to run the experiments. This indicates that collaborating spirits can work with the equipment even when no humans are present and can follow precise instructions given via PowerPoint. This phase of research also considered the unlikely possibility of inadvertent near-distance psi effects by the researchers.



- 4. Additional research indicating the practicality of "spirit" detection was conducted using a photomultiplier tube system in an electrically shielded chamber. Data were collected by a senior scientist with a PhD in physical engineering at the California Institute of Human Sciences in 2013.
- 5. Experiments were performed from 2011 to 2014 using shielded magnetic sensors and background radiation detectors. The statistically significant results documented that skilled collaborating spirits could increase or decrease the signals and produce patterns in the signals.
- 6. Experiments from 2014 to 2016 using sophisticated equipment have detected:
- (a) micro-breezes using an optical dynamical interferometer with special software developed by

Schwartz and his team;

- (b) micro-photon beam attenuation using an optical detection system;
- (c) sub-audible sounds using a microphone with preamplifier synchronised voice paradigm; and
- (d) blurring in real time using high quality video recording equipment with specially designed software.

Note: the research described in (5) and (6) has intentionally not been published to protect important intellectual property.



Other Scientific Evidence for Consciousness

Additional evidence about the indestructibility of consciousness comes from many eminent scientists and their mathematical, theoretical or research findings. I credit The New Science of Consciousness Survival by Alan Hugenot, Engr ScD as a resource for quotes in the remainder of this section.

Max Planck, PhD, Nobel Prize recipient and founder of quantum physics, stated: "All matter originates and exists only by virtue of a force. We must assume that behind this force is the existence of a conscious and intelligent Mind. This Mind is the matrix of all matter."

Thirty years later, Dr Planck wrote: "I regard consciousness as fundamental. I regard matter as derivative from consciousness. We cannot get behind consciousness. Everything that we talk about, everything that we regard as existing, postulates consciousness."

Physicist David Bohm PhD, author of Wholeness and the Implicate Order, described the ultimate nature of reality as unified energy that undergoes constant change. In his view, life is fundamentally best described as an enormous totality of energy in perpetual motion. Our physical world is like a tiny ripple on a vast sea, a wavelike excitation on top of this seething energy soup. Just as each fragment of a hologram contains information about the entire image, each human being in some sense contains the essence of the Universe.

Bohm postulates two levels of reality that coexist and overlap. The material or explicate order is the

manifestation of energy which is perceived by our brains as physical reality bound by time and space. The absolute or implicate order is infinite, consists of pure energy and transcends physicality. Together, these two orders comprise an undivided whole that constantly flows and changes.

Dr Hugenot states: "The insights of quantum electrodynamics (QED) and Relativity Theory both pointed to a universe that is undivided and in which all parts merge and unite in one totality. This undivided whole is not static; it is in a constant state of flow and change, a kind of invisible ether (dark energy or zeropoint field) from which all things arise and into which all eventually dissolve."

He states that the theory of afterlife survival has been proven beyond a reasonable doubt based on:

- It is a logical possibility.
- There is a great deal of evidence for it coming from several separate streams of scientific inquiry.
- No scientist has ever produced one shred of scientific data to disprove it.

Hugenot summarises how biocentrism supports the theory of consciousness survival: "This biocentrism theory implies that death simply does not exist. It is an illusion that arises in the minds of people. It exists because people identify themselves with their physical bodies. They believe that the body is going to perish sooner or later and think their consciousness will also disappear along with the physical body. However, consciousness does in fact exist outside of the constraints of time and space and outside the physical body. It is able to be and act anywhere: in the human body and outside of it."

I hope this partial presentation of the evidence for afterlife survival provides you with comfort and assurance that you—and everyone else—are forever beings. That knowledge is immensely important for fully enjoying and participating in life on Earth, especially during the difficult parts.

About the Author:

Mark Pitstick, MA, DC, has over forty years' experience and training in hospitals, pastoral counselling settings, mental health centres and private practice. His training includes a premedical degree, graduate theology/pastoral counselling studies, masters in clinical psychology, and doctorate in chiropractic health care. Mark is certified in Past Life Regression therapy by Brian Weiss, MD and the Facilitated After-Death Contact technique by Raymond Moody, MD. He is a board member for a bereaved parents group, Helping Parents Heal, writes the Q&A for their newsletters, and started two groups (www.helpingparentsheal.info). He is also the director of education for Eternea.org, an organisation that merges science and spirituality. For more, visit soulproof.com and https://tinyurl.com/lt4gvmk.